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success is evidenced by the remarkable fact that during the past twenty-two hundred years, ever since this irrigation work was built, there have been only six minor floods in the Plain. 312

The presence of innumerable other irrigation projects, greatly diversified in construction and surprisingly adaptable to the local topography and source of water supply, bears witness to the painstaking and extensive adjustments the Basin has made to the vital problem of water supply.

A second adjustment to water resource lies in the fact that even with its limited available technological knowledge, the Basin has made good use of many of its numerous streams. By canalization, damming, and other devices, the navigability of these streams has been greatly increased. Especially the successful negotiation by steamboats of the bottle-neck (gorges) of the mighty Yangtse has greatly tempered the continental position and the land-locked character of the Basin. These achievements, in turn, have facilitated the movement of the bulky agricultural and forestry products among the various areas both within and without the Basin.

The localization of the Basin's urban units on the terraces and along the banks of the principal rivers is a third example of adjustment, partly to topography and partly to river transportation. 361

Among the climatic adjustments, the architecture of the Basin (characterized by the projecting eaves, recurved roofs, and elaborate roof ornaments) is closely correlated to the absence of wind and snow and the extended misty rain-season of the Basin. 132 341

The practice of digging in the soft, friable, cretaceous bed rock, in order to hasten weathering and soil formation for agricultural land use, represents one of the most astounding examples of soil culture and environmental adjustment in the Basin. 242●

As a result of the abundant growth of bamboo in the Basin, an interesting adjustment to vegetation has taken place. Nowhere else in China except in the Basin does one find widespread use of bamboo. In addition to the large number of articles of furniture, household tools, and utensils of various kinds which are made from this material, even the great engineering construction works, including the important irrigation systems, bridges, and brine-salt mining equipment are all made of bamboo. It was once estimated that bamboo is used for six hundred different purposes in the Basin. Here people are truly in the "bamboo age." 314

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producer of both these key minerals among all the provinces of free China. 135

While it is true that Szechuan Basin is undoubtedly the most self-sufficient and prosperous agricultural region of China, many phases of its present agricultural and forestry land use cannot be said to be wholly satisfactory from the standpoint of modern technology and scientific development. As a matter of fact, the backwardness of some of the practices is appalling. Drastic measures of improvement are urgently needed. 242● 313

The efficiency of the Basin's present agricultural land use has been handicapped greatly by many natural and cultural factors. Among these are the traditional "Tung Shui Tien" system; the undependable nature and marginal character of the hilly agriculture in many parts of the Basin; the presence of large tracts of unreclaimed vacant land (particularly at the peripheral areas of the Basin); ignorance of modern scientific methods of seed selection and plant-breeding (from the irrigated alluvial plain rice to the small millet of the non-irrigated eroded soils of the upper hills); the insufficiency and failure of cotton-culture in many parts of the Basin; the periodic or aperiodic famine in the more hilly areas due to the lack of the more drought-resistant crops; the serious nature of soil-creep in many hilly areas; the failure to modernize silk-culture; the failure to cultivate and to experiment with native herbs; and above all, the lack of satisfactory and efficient irrigation system in many terraced fields of the more hilly areas. 242

In forestry land use, the most noticeable difficulties are: the lack of long-range and far-sighted forestry policy and lumber exploitation; the failure to cultivate and to experiment with tung trees; the absence of well-organized and modern-equipped plantations in tung tree production; the lack of standardization of tung tree products; and the serious hazards (due to long and difficult hauling) of transporting the wax-insects in the white-wax tree industry. 313

Transportation both within and without the Basin has been made difficult by the swift flow of many of the streams and the ruggedness of the topography. Among all the regional problems of Szechuan Basin, none is more important and more acute than the issue of transportation. The solution of this problem will promote the efficiency of agricultural and forestry as well as other forms of land use in the Basin. 489